

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A connection manager comprising:
a dialer configured to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a
service provider;
a graphical user interface configured to manipulate parameters associated with
the connection, the graphical user interface including a form
component; and
an advice window responsive to user actions associated with the form
component.
2. The connection manager of claim 1, wherein the form component includes
a text entry component.
3. The connection manager of claim 2, wherein at least one of the user actions
is entry of text into the text entry component.
4. The connection manager of claim 3, wherein the advice window is
displayed if a caps lock feature is active.
5. The connection manager of claim 3, wherein the advice window is
displayed if the entered text fails a criteria.
6. The connection manager of claim 1, wherein the form component is a
button.
7. The connection manager of claim 1, wherein the advice window minimizes
upon the expiration of a time period.
8. The connection manager of claim 1, wherein the advice window minimizes
to an icon.

9. The connection manager of claim 1, further comprising:

a list of phone numbers retrievable from a memory device and associated with the service provider, each phone number in the list of phone numbers having an associated priority number.

10. The connection manager of claim 9, wherein the phone numbers in the list of phone numbers are sorted in accordance with the priority number and wherein the phone numbers in the order as sorted are sequentially used in attempts to connect to the service provider.

11. The connection manager of claim 9, further comprising:

an update tool configured to interact with the service provider to manipulate the list of phone numbers.

12. The connection manager of claim 11, wherein phone numbers in the list of phone numbers are edited.

13. The connection manager of claim 11, wherein priority numbers associated with the list of phone numbers are edited using the update tool.

14. A method of connection management, the method comprising:

displaying a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface including at least one form component;
displaying an advice window in response to a user action associated with the at least one form component; and
accessing a dialer, the dialer configured to direct a modem to connect to a service provider.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the form component is a text entry component.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the user action is entry of text into the text entry component.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the advice window is displayed if a caps lock feature is active.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein comprising displaying the advice window after the entered text fails a criteria.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein the form component is a button.

20. The method of claim 14, further comprising minimizing the advice window upon the expiration of a time period.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the advice window minimizes to an icon.

22. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

sorting a list of phone numbers to produce a priority sorted list, each phone number in the list of phone numbers associated with an associated priority number, wherein the sorting is conducted in accordance with the priority numbers.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising directing the dialer to dial a phone number from the priority sorted list.

24. The method of claim 22, further comprising:

activating an update tool configured to communicate with the service provider for the purpose of manipulating the list of phone numbers.

25. A connection manager comprising:
a dialer to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider;
an error handling component configured to apply diagnostic logic to an error
associated with the dialer;
an error handling user interface configured to interact with a user; and
an error handling message proxy configured to provide communication
between the error handling component and the error handling user
interface.

26. The connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error handling
component directs the error handling user interface to display a user query in response
to detecting the error.

27. The connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error handling
component performs a parameter test in response to a user action associated with the
error handling user interface.

28. The connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error handling
component changes a parameter value in response to a user action associated with the
error handling user interface.

29. The connection manager of claim 25, wherein the error is selected from a
group consisting of an authentication failure, a modem port availability failure, a port
disconnection failure, a server response error, a line busy error, a no answer error, a
dial tone failure.

30. A method to manage connecting a computation device to a service provider, the method comprising:

- initiating an error handling component associated with a dialer, the dialer configured to interact with a modem to provide a connection to a service provider;
- detecting an error associated with the dialer using the error handling component;
- directing an error handling user interface to display a user query, wherein the directing is performed by the error handling component; and
- performing a parameter test using the error handling component in response to a user input associated with the error handling user interface.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising manipulating a parameter using the error handling component in response to a user action associated with the error handling user interface.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the error is selected from a group consisting of an authentication failure, a modem port availability failure, a port disconnection failure, a server response error, a line busy error, a no answer error, a dial tone failure.